



Montgomery County Council

From the office of Councilmember Nancy Dacek

News Release

June 26, 2002

Contact: Peggy Erickson 240-777-7973

DACEK TO STATE: MOVE AHEAD WITH CORRIDOR CITIES TRANSITWAY NOW

Testifying before the State of Maryland's Department of Transportation, Councilmember Nancy Dacek last night urged the state to move forward now to win federal funding for the Corridor Cities Transitway, which could link Clarksburg and points north to the Shady Grove Metro station and the high-tech corridor in Gaithersburg and Rockville.

"The state must move forward now on resolving the transportation challenges in the I-270 corridor," said Dacek, who represents the County Council on the Washington area Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board. "A critical next step is for the state to request that Congress include the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) as an authorized project when TEA-21, federal transportation legislation, is re-authorized in the coming year.

"The study of transit service in the I-270 corridor goes as far back as 1970. The issues have been studied long enough.

"While this region has been forever studying new transit options, other regions have been lining up for federal dollars.

"In the last federal appropriations bill in FY02 for new rail starts, Chicago had 5 new lines approved, San Diego had two new lines, New Orleans had two new lines, Salt Lake City had two new lines, and Denver had four new lines. Where were the metropolitan D.C. area and the state of Maryland? Only funding for completion of Metro's green line was included, with no new lines in the region even in the queue for federal funding. The time is **now** for the state of Maryland to move forward in requesting authorization of the Corridor Cities Transitway.

"Why is transit in the I-270 corridor critical? The CCT is a key element in supporting the quality of life in Montgomery County as embodied in our County Master Plans. Master plans for Rockville, Shady Grove Study Area, Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Clarksburg rely on the Corridor Cities Transitway to provide the needed transportation capacity to accommodate future growth. From a regional and state perspective, the transitway is critical to the continued success of a thriving high technology I-270 corridor. Allowing more cars to pour onto I-270 without providing a viable alternative for workers is intolerable.

"The County's Master Plans envision relatively dense, compact centers along the I-270 corridor. These major centers allow for growth while protecting our land, water, and air. Together these
(more...)

page two

centers make up the corridor cities that the Corridor Cities Transitway is meant to serve. The Corridor Cities Transitway will link the majority of employment and mixed use centers in Montgomery County in the I-270 technology corridor to each other, and through the connection to the Metro Red Line station to the rest of the region. Areas such as the King Farm, Shady Grove Life Sciences Center, Metropolitan Grove, Germantown Town Center, Lockheed Martin/COMSAT, and the Clarksburg Town Center will have a new, convenient alternative to the automobile.

“As with any draft DEIS, alternatives must be weighed and issues must be resolved. The study looked at ending the transitway at COMSAT. I have advocated that the transitway be designed to go to the Clarksburg Town Center. The Town Center has been designed for pedestrian, friendly access to transit. The absence of transit can undermine the success of this ‘smart growth’ community.

“In truth, my vision is for transit ultimately to extend up to Frederick. According to the latest Council of Governments (COG) growth analysis the outer suburbs including Frederick have experienced astronomical rates of growth in the last decade. This is a clear trend that we can not ignore. As Frederick continues to grow and be linked economically more closely with Montgomery County and the metropolitan D.C. region an easily accessible transit option for commuters is critical. The groundwork must be laid now in order for transit to Frederick to be phased in and available as needed.

“The Montgomery County Council unanimously supports the Corridor Cities Transitway and has urged that it be included for funding in the Consolidated Transportation Program as well as in the State’s Federal funding request.

“The CCT successfully balances transportation needs with economic goals, clean air, quality neighborhoods, and open space. Since the Corridor Cities Transitway has been included in Montgomery County Master Plans, right-of-way has been set-aside, over 80 percent of the land has been secured, and cities and communities along the way have been highly supportive of the project. The longer the CCT does not move forward, the greater will be the pressure to develop on this critical right-of-way. The Corridor Cities Transitway must move forward **now**.“

###